



TOWN OF NATICK Meeting Agenda

POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF M .G.L. CHAPTER 30A, §§ 18-25

Safety Committee

Natick Police Department Date: November 28, 2023 Time: 10:00 AM
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

James Hicks is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88434000184?pwd=RfVDqUPRFmOO612bAaDfDMLgygcapN.1>

Meeting ID: 884 3400 0184

Passcode: 290977

One tap mobile

+13092053325,,88434000184#,,,,*290977# US

+13126266799,,88434000184#,,,,*290977# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
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- +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 689 278 1000 US
- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 360 209 5623 US
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 564 217 2000 US
- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 884 3400 0184

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Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88434000184>

When

Tuesday Nov 28, 2023 · 10am – 1pm (Eastern Time - New York)

Location

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88434000184?pwd=RfVDqUPRFmOO612bAaDfDMLgygcapN.1>

[View map](#)

APPROVE MINUTES August 3, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes

OLD BUSINESS:

Walnut/Bacon/Chestnut Street intersection.

TABLE Town Engineer Bill McDowell will keep Safety Committee apprised of the status Fall of 23.

Resident request for a street light on the circle near 15 Bunker Lane. TABLE pending answer from Eversource on viable options.

Request to address multiple Upland Road street names. TABLE pending Community Meeting for residents of Upland on the south side of Route 9 to be scheduled this fall.

Resident Request to address serious concern with cars turning right on red onto 135 at Washington
TABLE pending discussion with Deputy Chief Lauzon, Highway Superintendent Brian Caisse and Ken Mitchell on possibility for No Turn of Red arrow activated on overhead traffic signal light when someone at crosswalk.

Request for a speed limit change on the following streets: Proctor Street, Fiske Street and Fairview Avenue. Sgt. Lacerra presented findings of speed study conducted May 2 – June 9, 2023

Proctor – 85th Percentile speed 29 MPH

Windsor – 85th Percentile 25 MPH

Fairview – 85th Percentile 28 MPH

TABLE pending analysis of speed study does it meet criteria for 25 MPH Zone. Lieutenant Graham will have recommendation for committee at September Committee meeting.

Resident Request for No Turn on Right at the intersection of West Central Street and Speen Street in all four directions. TABLE pending evaluation of data collected by Town engineer Mark Coviello.

Resident Request to re-evaluate adding a crosswalk at North Pleasant as well as address obstructed view at 22 North Pleasant Street. TABLE pending ownership and status of bushes obstructing view of intersection.

Resident Request the following to address traffic and speeding concerns on Walnut Street

- Make the following intersections 3 Way Stops
 - *Walnut Street at Roundwood Road
 - *Walnut Street at Carlisle Terrace
 - *Walnut Street at North Avenue
- Make the following intersection a 4 Way Stop
 - *Walnut Street at Shattuck Street
- Prohibit all commercial vehicles over 2 ½ tons on the section of Walnut Street between Bacon Street and Route 9 East.
- Post 25 MPH signs each direction on the section of Walnut Street between Route 9 East and Carlisle Terrace
- Reduce speed limit from 35 MPH to 25 MPH on stretch of Walnut Street between North Ave and Bacon Street
- Consider other traffic calming measures including permanent digital speed signs, flashing signs at crosswalks, speed bumps etc.

Committee VOTED to TABLE pending further speed study in efforts to identify traffic patterns in order to slow speeds down.

Request for a street light review on Bishop Street and Madonna Street

TABLE pending research with Eversource for the possibility of a stand alone light. Existing pole at intersection has a transformer on it and a light cannot be added to this pole. Can they install a stand alone pole and run power, in order to illuminate the area.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request to pedestrian activated flashing lights at the crosswalk in front of the Bacon Free Library on Eliot Street. (Attachment 1)

Request to add Pedestrian Activated Crossing Lights at crosswalk on Pond Street near Reynolds Ave
(Attachment 2)

Resident Request to address excess speed on Woodland Street which is highly travelled and very narrow. (Attachment 3)

Resident Request to add a "RIGHT OF WAY" sign at eastbound side of Hartford Street at the intersection of Bishop Street (Attachment 4)

Resident request for a speed bump be installed on Wellesley Avenue in an effort to slow motorists down. (Attachment 4)

Resident request to install a street light at the end of Bacon Street at the beginning of the CRT
(Attachment 6)

While there is a crosswalk there, oftentimes drivers do not stop when someone is trying to cross. I don't know if this is a possibility or not, but wanted to reach out to see what you think.

Thanks in advance.
Amy

Amy Sadkin
Director, Bacon Free Library
Natick, MA
(508) 653-6730
baconfreeilibrary.org

James Errickson
Town Administrator
Town of Natick
508-647-6404

ATTACHMENT 1

Wed, Aug 23, 2023 at 2:43 PM

Chief James Hicks <hicks@natickpolice.com>
To: James Errickson <jerrickson@natickma.org>
Cc: Amy Sadkin <asadkin@minilib.net>, Jon Marshall <jmarshall@natickma.org>, William Spratt <wspratt@natickma.org>, Meredith Ruhl <mruhl@minilib.net>, Maylee Watkins <watkins@natickpolice.com>

Jamie,

We will add to the next SC Meeting agenda.

[Quoted text hidden]

James G. Hicks

Chief of Police

Natick Police Department

20 East Central Street

Natick, MA 01760-4631

508-647-9511

508-647-9509 Fax



Fwd: Safer crosswalk request - Pond and Reynolds

1 message

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 9:42 AM

Brian Lauzon <blauzon@natickpolice.com>
To: Marylee Watkins <watkins@natickpolice.com>

Next Safety Committee agenda.

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Katie Ring** < >
Date: Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 7:01 PM
Subject: Safer crosswalk request - Pond and Reynolds

Dear Deputy Chief Brian Lauzon,

We are writing to urgently ask you to consider adding a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon crosswalk on Pond Street near Reynolds Avenue.

We are three of many families that have to cross Pond Street in order for our elementary school aged children to get to their bus stops (not to mention the middle schoolers who cross the street in the early morning hours). Pond Street is a main thoroughfare in Natick, with its access to the High School, and crossing the street at any hour feels dangerous.

There are a dozen or so elementary school students who cross Pond Street between 7:40-7:50 AM every school day to get to their bus stops on Pond Street between Forest Ave and High Street, at the start of the rush hour commute. There is also a group of middle school kids who are crossing the street in the near dark, between 7:00-7:15 AM, as the high schoolers are driving themselves (quickly) to school. We feel that a flashing crosswalk is necessary to keep them safe.

Please let us know if this is something you'll consider, or if our request is better forwarded to another office, as soon as possible.

Many thanks,
Katie Ring
Sara Sniderman
David Dumoulin

ATTACHMENT 2



Marylee Watkins <watkins@natickpolice.com>

Traffic Speed and Frequency on Woodland Street Concerns

2 messages

Lindsay Cary >

Thu, Sep 28, 2023 at 10:55 AM

To: mwatkins@natickma.org, selectboard@natickma.org, pjoseph@natickma.org, jerrickson@natickma.org

Hello,

I am writing to register concerns regarding the speed, safety, and frequency of vehicles traveling on Woodland Street daily. I live at 93 Woodland Street and have a child attending kindergarten at Memorial School. Like many parents on my street and in this neighborhood, we walk to school via Eisenmenger Trail whenever the weather allows - to get there, we all need to walk on Woodland Street. Our family also has a dog we take on walks, and we have no choice but to use Woodland for part. In addition to the neighborhood children and families using the street, it is a popular road for runners, bikers, and dog walkers due to its scenic nature.

Concerns that I have regarding the traffic are significant and outlined below:

- 1. High Traffic Area:** Woodland Street is a residential neighborhood that connects two main thoroughfares in Natick - Cottage St. and Union St. As a result, we see MANY, MANY vehicles using our road as a "secret" cut-through with little to no traffic control in place to stop or slow down movement. As a result, we get an inordinately high volume of vehicles traveling at high rates of speed daily. This is especially apparent during the morning and evening commutes -- consequently, these are also the times that most of the neighborhood children are either playing in their yards or walking to school/the bus stop.
- 2. Excess Speed:** Cars routinely travel more than 35 MPH on our street and, when we drive slowly, will frequently tailgate us and fly past as soon as we turn into our driveway. This is unacceptable at base, but more so when you realize we live on one of the more hazardous corners of the street.
- 3. Road Width:** The road is extremely narrow in many spots -- too narrow for two cars to drive past one another in many areas. One unfortunate place is around a blind curve in front of my home. My front lawn is more often than not subjected to deep tire tracks as a result. Please see the attached pictures for more details.

The excess speed and road width issue has already resulted in one car being wrapped around a telephone pole not far from my home in January or February of 2021. I expect the above problems to be further exacerbated when several multifamily housing projects and the large Union Street project are completed soon.

In addition to contacting the Select Board today, I previously discussed the above with Lieutenant Allan Graham at the Natick Police Department at the beginning of September. I am happy to speak with someone directly regarding this or to attend the next Town Safety Committee meeting to bring more context to these concerns and to work with the town to identify a solution before someone walking on the street is hit by a car.

I look forward to hearing back and working together on making Woodland Street a safer thoroughfare for residents, pedestrians, and commuters alike.

Thank you,

Lindsay Cary

ATTACHMENT 3

Woodland Traffic Issue - Photo1.png

Woodland Traffic Issue - Photo2.png

Woodland Traffic Issue - Photo 3.png

Woodland Traffic Issue - Photo 4.png











Marylee Watkins <watkins@natickpolice.com>

Natick safety committee agenda item

2 messages

Luke Bogart <[redacted]>
To: watkins@natickpolice.com

Sat, Sep 23, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Dear Marylee Watkins,

My name is Luke Bogart and I am a homeowner in West Natick. There is a dangerous intersection near my house that my neighbors and I would love to see improved. I made the post below on SeeClickFix but was told that instead this item must be brought to the safety committee and that I should contact you to get on the agenda.

Can you please let me know more about the safety committee? Do I need to attend a meeting myself and if so what day & time are these typically held?

Thank you,
Luke Bogart



<https://seeclickfix.com/issues/15166423>

DESCRIPTION

Eastbound traffic on Hartford St., at the intersection of Bishop St. in west Natick, often does not obey the STOP sign seen on the small island in the photo (traffic continuing on Hartford, on the left half of the photo). Eastbound drivers either run the stop sign completely or seem to think that westbound traffic on Hartford St., that is turning onto Bishop St., has a stop sign (there is no westbound stop sign), and therefore after one car proceeding westbound turns south onto Bishop (e.g., black SUV in center of photo), the drivers heading east on Hartford leave the stop line and continue east, risking collision with other drivers intending to turn south onto Bishop *who have the right of way.*

Next to the STOP sign indicated above, adding a sign such as "oncoming traffic does not stop" or "oncoming traffic has the right of way" would help make this intersection safer. A lot of our neighbors avoid this intersection because it is unsafe.

ATTACHMENT 4

also asked...

Q. Type of sign?

A. Other (please describe in description field)

Q. What is the problem?

A. Other (please describe in description field)

Q. Please provide the location of the sign (nearest roadway intersection and street address).

A. Bishop St & Hartford St, Town of Natick, MA, 01760, USA; located across the street from [217 Hartford St](#).

Wyatt & Son's
Enterprises
Temporarily closed





Marylee Watkins <watkins@natickpolice.com>

Request

1 message

Danny LaFrance

To: "watkins@natickpolice.com" <watkins@natickpolice.com>

Cc: "dpw@natickma.org" <dpw@natickma.org>

Mon, Sep 25, 2023 at 3:41 PM

Hello,

I was referred to you by the DPW. I am a [Natick \(22A Wellesley Ave\)](#) resident and would like to make a case for a speedbump to be installed on our street. Wellesley Ave includes a slight uphill climb at the end of the street. Traffic to and from the upper portion has always been fast, because of that feature. Now, its simply out of control. Particularly the UPS drivers. It's a matter of time before one of them hits a child. I did file a complaint to UPS directly last week as well after a particularly incident. But, as you know, we live in a world now where nobody cares about anything.

I would like to understand what the process is for a speed bump, if there is one. Also, could I simply ask for a permit to install one myself, at my expense? Do I need a petition from my neighbors? Any information would be helpful.

Best regards,

Danny Lafrance

[Natick MA 01760](#)**ATTACHMENT 5**



Marylee Watkins <watkins@natickpolice.com>

Re: Crosswalk

2 messages

Wed, Aug 23, 2023 at 2:33 PM

James Errickson <jerrickson@natickma.org>

To: Amy Sadkin <asadkin@minilib.net>, James Hicks <hicks@natickpolice.com>

Cc: Jon Marshall <jmarshall@natickma.org>, William Spratt <wspratt@natickma.org>, Meredith Ruhl <mruhl@minilib.net>, Marylee Watkins <watkins@natickpolice.com>

Hi Amy,

Thank you for the note. This is great to hear the interest in the Library and the Historical Society. Pedestrian safety is certainly a priority of the Town.

In general, the Select Board (SB), as Roadway Commissioners for Natick, must take action on all requests that deal with impacting public rights of way, like streets. Typically, such requests are referred to the Safety Committee (SC), which is advisory to the SB on such items, through Chief Hicks (copied here). Once reviewed by the SC, a recommendation is provided to the SB for endorsement/acceptance. Depending on the SB decision, a recommendation from the SC goes towards implementation - so basically gets forwarded to the appropriate staff or department to work to complete.

In the case of investments like flashing crosswalks/beacons, we have very limited available funding for such items, so these types of investments take longer to implement. We currently have a backlog of over a dozen such requests in Town that are pending funding. We can tackle a few each year, through gift, grant, or other means, but it can take some time when a funding source is not previously identified. For reference, these can cost several thousand dollars depending on site conditions - access to electricity, ADA compliance of the cross walk, etc. If there is funding available through the Trustees or the Historical Society, implementation can happen much more quickly.

By way of this email, Chief - can you add this to an upcoming Safety Committee agenda to start the review process?

Thanks,

Jamie

On Wed, Aug 23, 2023 at 1:54 PM Amy Sadkin <asadkin@minilib.net> wrote:

Hi Jamie, Jon and Bill,

I have a question that I wasn't sure who I should speak to about, so I'm writing to you all. It's about the possibility of installing flashing lights at the crosswalk in front of the Bacon.

We are having very large attendance at some of our children's programs and many people park on the other side of the street and/or visit the ice cream shop or coffee shop either before or after our programs. This week alone, we had 257 people attend our end of summer reading concert last night and today our bi-weekly music program for toddlers had well over a hundred people. Our weekly story hours are generating 60+ people twice a week as well. While these numbers tend to slow down as the weather gets colder and we bring programming indoors, we still have patrons that park across the street or cross the street to visit the cafe. The Historical Society has also started having all the 3rd graders come to visit them in the spring which also adds to the fact that hundreds of children are crossing a very busy road.

Marylee Watkins <watkins@natickpolice.com>**Fwd: Street Light**

1 message

Lynn Farber <lynnfarber@comcast.net>
To: Marylee Watkins <watkins@natickpolice.com>

Tue, Oct 10, 2023 at 11:48 AM

Please see my request for a streetlight at the end of Bacon St

It extremely dark at night and it would increase safety near the beginning of the trail as well as Bacon St

Thank you

Lynn Farber
Natick St
Natick 01760

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brian Caissie <bcaissie@natickma.org>
Date: October 10, 2023 at 8:40:46 AM EDT
To: lynnfarber@comcast.net
Subject: Street Light

Good Morning,

I have talked to our street light contractor, and it is possible to add a street light to the existing Utility Pole #2 at the end of Bacon St.

You would still need to request this through the Safety Committee.

If you email lwatkins@natickpolice.com you can request to be put on the agenda of an upcoming meeting.

Best,
Brian Caissie
Town of Natick Department of Public Works
Highway/Sanitation/Recycling Supervisor
75 West Street
Natick, Ma 01760
Phone (508) 647-6562
Fax (508) 647-6560
bcaissie@natickma.org

ATTACHMENT 6